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Syria at about £S 2.85 per square meter. Most of its production is sold 323
locally and there has recently been a marked increase in demand from its export markets in Lebanon and Jordan where Syrian glass is admitted duty free. Since 1952 the importation of sheet glass, many containers and other glass articles has been prohibited.

Tanning and Leather Dressing

The development of the tanning and leather dressing industry from 282
the handicraft to the mechanically-aided stage began about 1929 and has made good progress, particularly since the dissolution of the Customs Union with Lebanon.

The supply of Syrian sheep and goat skins is more than sufficient to meet local demand, but raw cow and buffalo hides were imported to the extent of over 2,000 tons in 1951 and over 2,500 tons in 1953 to supplement the supply of local hides. About 800 tons of untreated hides and skins were exported in 1951 and 600 in 1953, and about 430 tons and 330 tons of processed leather and leather goods in 1951 and 1953 respectively. According to the most recent official figures (end of 1953) the tanneries which the government classes as factories numbered 75, mostly in the Aleppo and Damascus areas. The annual output amounted to 2,700 tons of sole hide and 4.9 million square feet of other leather. The number of workers employed was given as 2,700.

Elsewhere we have mentioned the successful establishment of an industrial zone for tanneries on the outskirts of Damascus. This has provided an opportunity for the introduction of additional modern machinery and a great improvement in working conditions at the new location. The new tanneries vary considerably in size, the number of workers ranging from five or six to about 100.

Boots and Shoes 295

Leather boots and shoes with leather or rubber soles are made by hand or on simple machines in small workshops in most parts of the country, or by the retailer on his own premises. There are no reliable figures of the number of workers or volume of production.

During the last few years four factories have been established near